

MONDAY JULY 25, 1977

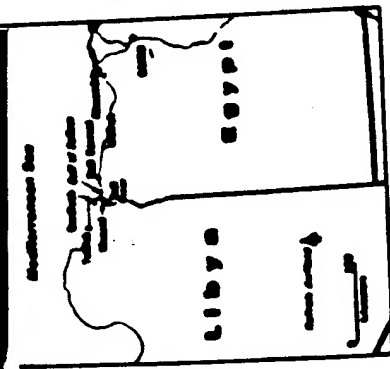
Egypt-Libya: Cease-Fire Announcement

Egyptian President Sadat's announcement yesterday of an end to military operations on the Libyan border suggests he is satisfied for now with the level of damage inflicted on Libyan forces. He probably hopes that Libya has been "taught a lesson" and will refrain from future military moves against Egypt, and will reduce its involvement in subversive activities against Egypt and its allies. Before the announcement, Egyptian air and ground forces hit targets in northeastern and southeastern Libya, and both sides sent reliefers across the border area. There apparently has been no Soviet military reaction so far to the Egyptian-Libyan fighting. (TSU) RUFF NF/OC)

Sadat probably was also influenced by the entreaties being expressed in the Arab world over the fighting between two Arab "brothers," and by the increasing intensity of Arab mediation efforts. In ad-

dition to the medietary role assumed by Palestinian Liberation Organization chief Arafat late last week, Algerian President Boumedienne and the Kuwaiti foreign minister traveled to Libya and Egypt yesterday to attempt to defuse the situation there.

Another factor in Sadat's decision to halt operations may have been popular opinion in Egypt.



The Libyans stated that as part of a prisoner exchange, the Egyptians turn over to them Libyan exile leader Umar al-Muhayyir, who has been living in Egypt. Sadat is unlikely to accede to this demand.

Before the cease-fire announcement, Cairo radio indicated that Sadat will deliver an "important political speech" tomorrow. He is likely to take the occasion to try to justify Egypt's role in the conflict.

Military Activity

Before Sadat's announcement on the cessation of fighting, Egyptian aircraft yesterday struck Nair al-Bard near Tobruk.

Both sides have continued to segment their forces in the border area. About 2,000 Libyan troops arrived in Tobruk yesterday, and radio reports from Tripoli indicate that all Libyan reservists are being recalled to duty. Libyan air force personnel in Western Europe have reportedly been ordered home because of the fighting.

Over 2,000 Egyptian reservists apparently arrived in western Egypt on Saturday. These troops were earmarked for major Egyptian units near the border.